



## **Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Finance and Property Services**

**Date:** April 3, 2012

**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Referral:** Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Committee

**Subject:** **Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation Project**

**Recommendation:**

1. Adopt a resolution to accept a Minnesota Historical and Cultural grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;
2. Amend the 2012 Capital Appropriation Resolution by an increase of \$150,000 (Fund 04100 9010923 CPS1210000) for the Pioneers and Soldiers Fence Rehabilitation Project;

**Previous Directives:**

- January 27, 2012: Accept a \$20,000 grant from the American Express Partners in Preservation program, a partnership of the National Trust of Historic Preservation and the American Express Foundation;
- September 23, 2011: Accept a 2011 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid award in the amount of \$100,000 and an \$8,000 donation from Friends of the Cemetery;
- April 16, 2010: Resolution to accept a 2009 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid award in the amount of \$35,500;
- April 16, 2010: Resolution to accept a 2008 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant-In-Aid award in the amount of \$100,000.

**Prepared by:** Chris Backes, Construction Management Coordinator, 673-3774  
Aaron Hanauer, Senior City Planner, 673-2494

**Approved by:**

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Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

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Kevin Carpenter, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Department

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Jayne Khalifa, Interim City Coordinator

**Presenters:** Chris Backes, Construction Management Coordinator, Finance and Property Services Department, Property Services  
Aaron Hanauer, Sr. City Planner, Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED)

## Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval NA Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Rights Approval Approval NA Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval NA Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Financial Impact

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget or Operating Budget &  
Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Dept Name: Public Works

Fund Name: (Fund 04100 9010923 CPS1210000)

Project Name (if capital budget): Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation

Amount: \$150,000

## Community Impact:

City Goals:

*Livable communities: Our built and natural environment adds character to our city, enhances our health and enriches our lives.* The historic fence that lines Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery is a design element that has been a part of Cedar Avenue and Lake Street for more than 80 years. The rehabilitation of the fence will help restore the fence to its 1928 appearance.

*Comprehensive Plan:*

Policy 8.1: Preserve, maintain, and designate districts, landmarks, and historic resources which serve as reminders of the city's architecture, history, and culture.

Policy 8.6: Provide educational, financial, technical, and regulatory assistance to ensure the survival of the city's historic resources.

## Background/Supporting Information

The Pioneers & Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Fence Restoration Project is the historic restoration of the ornamental steel fence surrounding the Pioneer & Soldiers Memorial Cemetery located at Cedar Ave. S. and Lake St. in Minneapolis.

The Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, established in 1853 as Layman's Cemetery, is the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis, and is the only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1928, the City took ownership of the Cemetery and renamed it the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery as an honor to the settlers, soldiers, and early residents buried there who contributed to the growth and prosperity of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota.

The City installed the original steel fence that surrounds the cemetery in 1928. The fence is 1,953 feet in length and includes 66 sections, with gates located on Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. Since that time, the fence has deteriorated to a point that routine maintenance is no longer feasible. Age and corrosion have resulted in a complete failure of the original paint system and in many places corrosion and metal fatigue have impacted the structural capacity of the fence such that it can no longer support itself.

Phase I and II of the project were completed in May 2011 and included the restoration of 15 of the 66 steel fence sections (including the main gates and the gates along Lake Street), an in-depth condition analysis of the fence, and architectural design work. Project funding sources include city capital funding, grants, and private contributions. Phase III is slated to begin in March 2012, and will complete the restoration of 13 additional sections.

The \$150,000 Minnesota Historical and Cultural grant will go towards funding Phase IV of the fence restoration project. The City of Minneapolis will continue to work with the nonprofit organization, Friends of the Cemetery, to raise additional funds for the project.

RESOLUTION  
By Colvin Roy and Hodges

Authorizing the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Minnesota Historical Society to be used for the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Fence Restoration Project.

Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the proper City officers be authorized to accept a \$150,000 Minnesota Historical and Cultural grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, to be used for the purpose of the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation Project.

Be It Further Resolved that the proper City officers be authorized to execute the necessary documents to accept the grant funds.